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For Immediate Release

Date: August 25, 2006
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State Lawmaker To Serve on Federal Insurance Issues Panel

Harahan, LA—Fifteen year veteran Louisiana lawmaker State Representative, Shirley Bowler, R-Harahan, will participate in a panel during the 2006 Annual Conference of the American Bankers Insurance Association on Sept. 11, in Washington, DC.

The panel, titled “Challenging State Insurance Regulation,” is expected to cover such topics as the optional federal charter, the SMART Act and other legislative and regulatory issues that make up the national push to insurance regulatory reform.

“It’s important for our members and Congress to have an appreciation for what drives states’ preference for retaining 50-plus jurisdictions’ various regulations of the insurance industry,” said J. Kevin McKechnie, attorney and lobbyist for the American Bankers Insurance Association. “Rep. Bowler from Louisiana can give us that perspective, as well as offer her insights on the federal initiatives to streamline insurance regulation. She has followed these issues closely, understands the constitutional roles of the federal and state governments, and has spoken out when legislatures improperly delegate their authorities.”

The panel, which will be moderated by Beth Climo, executive director of the American Bankers Insurance Association and the American Bankers Association Securities Association, is expected to include viewpoints of knowledgeable

participants in the national debate on how to streamline the regulation of insurance in a global marketplace. Joining Rep. Bowler on the panel are James T. McIntyre, McIntyre Law Firm; Andrew Olmem, counsel, U.S. Senate Banking Committee; C. Chris Roth, vice president and general manager, Hancock Insurance Agency, Inc.; Andrew Weis, staff director, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology and Robert Gordon (invited), senior counsel, U.S. House Financial Services Committee.

Member of the Louisiana House Insurance Committee for 13 years, Rep. Bowler has been an active participant in the National Conference of Insurance Legislators, an association of state lawmakers who serve on their home state's insurance committee. She has twice chaired NCOIL's Property/Casualty Committee and was chairman of the committee in 2001 when NCOIL passed its Property/Casualty Insurance Modernization Act.